California GARDEN

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 1974
Volume 65 Number 6
Fifty Cents

Special Events

November 2 & 3: San Diego Aquarium & Pond Show, Saturday 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Casa del Prado Majorca Room; FREE.

November 17th: San Diego-Imperial County Iris Show-Fall Reblooming Show, 1:30 to 6:00 p.m.; Casa del Prado, Majorca Room; FREE.

November 23 & 24: O'Hara Chapter of Ikebana Show, Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Casa del Prado Majorca Room

December 7 & 8: San Diego Floral Christmas Show, Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Casa del Prado Majorca Room; 50¢ *Donation*

Tours

November 19th: Ensenada-Trip to Baja California; bus trip down the scenic toll road to Ensenada, lunch and shopping; Visit to Rosarita Beach Hotel for coffee break; depart La Jolla 8:00 a.m. (Wall & Girard); depart Balboa Park 8:30 a.m. parking lot BACK of Organ Pavillion; $12.00.

Shows

December 1: Quail Gardens Christmas in Flowerland Bazaar; Ecke Family Building, Quail Botanic Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; FREE.

December 7 & 8: La Mesa Garden Club Christmas Flower Show; La Mesa Woman's Club; 5220 Wilson Avenue, La Mesa; Saturday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; FREE.

December 7 & 8: San Diego Floral Association Christmas Show; See back cover for details.

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Craig W. Silgjord

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editor's footnotes

¶ Our cover for this issue has been created for us by Ilsa Scheer. She is a free-lance artist having illustrated for Norcross Cards. Many of her water colors are exhibited in galleries across the United States. She is a new member of Floral and an ardent gardener as well. Playing the viola is another of her talents.

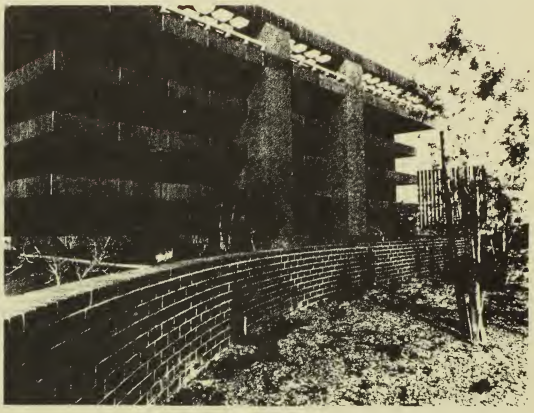
¶ The cover itself is an interpretation of the living wreath created by Nibby Klinefelter. For details please see the article beginning on page 168 of this issue. **Reprints of the artwork for this issue's cover will be available from the Floral Office.**

THANKSGIVING TIME

Like an autumn benediction
The glow of pumpkin gold
Mingles with the spicy scent
Of crepy-petaled 'mums'.

It's now we should be thankful
For the glorious plants we see
For the beauty of the sunrise
And birds that sing its song
For fish that swim in the waters
And squirrels in the tree
But, most of all,
For friends along the way.

May your days ahead be thankful
For dreams that have come true
While I am being grateful
Just for knowing you.



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Tradition and Holiday Feasts

by ROSALIE GARCIA

TRADITION plays a great part in our Christmas holiday feasts. We have so many ethnic backgrounds yet a common Chrsitian heritage dominated by customs from Europe. But, an American adaptation is constantly evolving so we find a diversity here and a tendency to innovation.

No longer do we serve the variety and quantity common on the "groaning board" of fifty years ago when the great turkey was carved by the head of the house and served with a mound of fluffy and sagey dressing and topped by giblet gravy. Platters of roast pork and ham along with fried chicken and fish, bowls of vegetables floating in cream, casseroles of sweet potatoes with crusty marshmallows and corn pudding, scalloped potatoes and mounds of creamed potatoes were in abundance. Hot golden biscuits with crystalline jellies and tall compotes of pear, peach and plum preserves sparkled down the center of the tables. Decorative as well as delicious, were the desserts themselves. They, however, were eaten along with all the rest of the food as a matter of course. All of this was topped off with mince and fruit pies, pound and fruit cakes, as well as those filled with fresh cocoanut and bananas. Cups of chilled boiled custard and a big bowl of egg nog, thick and aromatic with cream and eggs and whiskey were all set on the table. How anyone could eat all this and survive the day is beyond imagination.

Such a meal as this was served every Christmas by a plantation owner relative of mine in southern Arkansas. In time, the majority of the relatives had moved away but still managed to return for the holidays by train. Excitement reigned as the families would be greeted at the depot—three seated wagons were sent to meet them. We had a sit-down dinner about 1:00 p.m. The children had the glassed-in back porch to themselves, and the adults sat at two tables in the dining room. After dinner the tables were cleared and platters of cold meats, relishes, desserts and the refilled bowl of egg nog were set out. Friends who dropped in, and the still unfilled children, helped themselves all afternoon and into the evening.

Few people feast so extravagantly now, but families do get together on Christmas Day, and different members of the family entertain during the rest of the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. These affairs often are buffet luncheons and suppers.

For many years Alice Clark (Editor Emeritus of CALIFORNIA GARDEN) had a Christmas Eve party at her home in La Jolla. She called it a family party, but it included friends, in-laws, in-laws of in-laws of all ages—sometimes up to fifty people. Posters, greens, lights, candles and red table cloths turned her garage into a festive room where she served a buffet menu far from the traditional. Her patio outside the garage was brightened by a fire in an iron bowl and was the focus for a bar presided over by a son-in-law. An heirloom hand painted china bowl was kept filled with fruit punch. Her menu was built around great orange casseroles of crusty lasagne made ahead of time by her own special recipe and heated to be cut into steamy squared pieces and served with little hot pig sausages wrapped in bacon and broiled. On tables around the garage were a chafing dish of meat balls, bowls of shrimp and guacamole and plenty of potato and tortilla chips, which were a favorite of the children, who, for once, got all they wanted. One year a four year old ate nothing else but the potato chips. Platters of stuffed eggs and open faced sandwiches were tidbits that were popular. Plates of hot cheese delights were passed around when other things were getting cold. A dessert of decorated and fancy

cookies made by Alice and fruit cakes brought in by friends was served in the living room in front of the fire while the children passed baskets of gaily wrapped gifts, inexpensive, but useful to all. There was no Christmas tree to impeed the free movement of the children. At times Alice protected an ailing hip by using her wheel chair to maneuver around. The chair was gaily decorated with bells which the children loved to hear tinkle when the chair would move. After everyone was full and ready to be still, carols were sung with the accompaniment of a teenage orchestra of guests. At the conclusion there was a special serenade to Alice by the Richards trio.

Sit-down dinners with a menu built around the meat are still common. Turkey tops the list, but goose, roast beef and pork and even lamb or venison are sometimes used. Imagine fresh roast of pork, golden brown and crisp—what a dramatic treat to set before a group for Christmas dinner. To spruce up the marshmallow topped sweet potato casserole, try combining the mashed sweet potatoes with a cup of crushed pineapple, some butter and lemon rind and a cup of Chrysanthemum petals! All will wonder what that interesting flavor is, but don't tell—someone might flip if they knew. Since pork is rich, something cool and tart such as sauerkraut is a natural companion. By using it in a molded salad, it becomes fancy and festive. To packages of vegetable flavored gelatin, after moistening in cold water, dissolve in two cups of boiling water (two envelopes of unflavored gelatin in a can of hot consomme will do) and add a tablespoon of vinegar. Snip six or seven tender green onions into the thickening gelatin, one can of pimientos, and cut through a one-pound can of sauerkraut and pour all into a mold.

The rich corn pudding made with cream and eggs can be less caloric made with one and one-half cups of white sauce to two cups of canned or fresh corn, two well beaten eggs, seasoned with pepper, salt and baked by setting in a pan of water in a 325 degree oven until set.

The standing rib roast of beef or a "joint" is probably the most popular of meats. Who can resist the deep brown and crusty rib roast with its ruffled paper decorations? Along with the suckling pig, the joint of beef is a part of our English tradition, but they are not widely used now. Potatoes, baked, creamed or scalloped are a must with the beef, and there is little variation tolerated. A modern variation of a vegetable combination that will take the place of a vegetable and potatoes in food value is the acorn squash. Halved and baked face down until nearly tender, then filled with boiled small onions and walnuts

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covered with a sauce made of melted margarine and a little light molasses, salt and cinnamon poured over the onions and then baked until tender, these little beauties become a real delight.

Another vegetable that seldom makes the society circuit is the rutabaga. It is best when homegrown and pulled up when not much bigger than an egg. Mix it half and half with potato and mash with butter, pepper and salt. Or, cook the rutabaga in slices until almost tender and alternate them with apple slices in a casserole, with butter and a few tablespoons of any fruit juice you have handy. Bake in a 350 degree oven thirty minutes.

Cranberries are expected with turkey, but instead of serving them as a sauce, an interesting and delicious variation is to make a cranberry stuffing. Allethe Macdonald, President of San Diego Floral Association, says that she substitutes cranberries for blueberries in a muffin receipe for breakfast on Christmas morning.

Platters of relishes, pickled vegetables and fruits always add zest. Zuchinni squash can now be considered a regular. They are versatile and can even be used to make pickles.

For diet conscious people, a platter of boiled vegetables, hot or cold, passed around with a pitcher of hot wine sauce will give those weary diet tastebuds something to savor. Half a cup of butter browned in a skillet and seasoned with salt and a dash of cayenne and a half cup of white wine will add an exotic flavor to turnips, carrots, beets, onions and small potatoes.

Salads are not usually featured at holiday feasts, but if there is a "chef" in the family who likes to be dramatic, try this receipe for Spinach Flambeau from Virginia Innis who obtained the receipe from a San Francisco chef at the Blue Fox Restaurant. Choose some young tender spinach leaves; wash, dry and chill them. For each serving use a handful of leaves. Crisp two slices of bacon. Crush a clove of garlic in the dripping, and add one tablespoon of malt vinegar (no other kind will do) and add a dash of Worcestershire sauce. Toss in a wooden bowl enough spinach and bacon dripping to coat the spinach. In a hot skillet pour one ounce of brandy per serving, crumple the crisped bacon and light. Pour over the spinach while flaming. This certainly would be a dramatic addition to any festive meal. □

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Creating A Living Christmas Wreath

by NIBBY KLINEFELTER

FROM A DAISY CHAIN to a living Christmas wreath isn't such a far step when you consider how flower-like so many of the succulents appear.

One summer afternoon's "work" turned out a wreath that will grace my door for the fourth time this holiday season. True, some plants have been wrenched away from time to time, and others jammed in to fill the empty spaces left, but essentially it is the same basic structure.

Originally planted for a door decoration, little thought was given to other uses. It was a natural for a display demonstrating color in succulents, as a centerpiece with candles and angels, and it garnished the punch bowl before being retired outside to decorate the patio either on a table or hanging from the cedar fence for a year-round pleasure. Succulents are so very satisfying!

If you would like to make one, it's simple and quick. (We don't count the rooting period.) Assemble a wire wreath frame, spaghnum or "sheet" moss, a spool of fine wire or twine, potting soil rich in humus and a goodly quantity of succulent cuttings.

The wire frame is the kind used in funeral work and available from the florists who advertise in this publication. The moss is the type grown in peat bogs and acid woods, also available from your florist or nurseryman. It usually grows on decaying logs and is peeled off in sheets. The soil can be fairly heavy but should have redwood compost and sand incorporated for faster rooting.

Place the moss (growing side down) along the wire frame as a liner to hold the soil. Press layers of soil firmly, leaving no air pockets. Use the wire or twine in criss-cross fashion to further support the moss and tie the whole structure together.

Now for the fun part. Gather ye succulents where ye may and start planting!

Here is an easy method to follow: use nine rosettes evenly spaced, largest at the bottom and then fill in with harmonizing colors and textures around each rosette. In this way space will be available for any unexpected bonanzas in the way of cuttings, and yet obvious holes will not show. The moss is attractive and not necessarily something to be hidden.

Almost everyone in this practically frost-free area has a number of easily grown succulents. Since many branch when the terminal end is removed, you needn't fear that you are robbing your garden when taking cuttings.

What to use? Try Sedums, Crassulas, Echeverias, Bryophyllums, Haworthias, Aeoniums and even some of the Mesembryanthemum family are good choices.

After your wreath is planted, place it in a tray and leave it alone for a day or two. This period of time allows the cut ends to heal. Soak in several inches of water for a couple of hours, replace any cuttings that might have been disturbed and leave it in a safe place in the sun to grow. Keep the soil damp but not soggy.

The wreath should be fairly well-rooted in two or three weeks. While summer is the best time for rooting cuttings, they will root any time. It just takes longer during certain times of the year.

Test them gently. Don't be above wiring and tying or pinning willful, slow-to-root characters back in place. Fern pins and even hairpins will come in handy at this point.

It is not necessary to fertilize until the roots have made a network, intertwining and stabilizing the wreath. Now you can hang it. Naturally it will look different from this angle. Simply poke in a few more or snip a few shorter—they'll respond. When you do fertilize, use any good liquid fertilizer once a month after the first six months or so, and

more often later when the soil has been consumed by the roots.

A garbage can lid with the handle removed makes a good container to soak the wreath in when watering. Actually, the avocado green plastic ones aren't too aesthetically unsettling, either.

Succulents are really very colorful. Sedums range from bronze to red and yellow through all shades of green. Some of the Echeverias are very blue and some quite gray, especially the well known *E. glauca* and *E. secunda*, popularly called "Hen and Chickens". (In colder parts of the country that common name was reserved for the Sempervivums, also useful in this manner.)

Haworthias come in suitably small sizes, dark green and rough in texture, as well as pale green and smoothly fleshed.

The Aeoniums from the Canary Islands supply two species invaluable for wreath making. *A. haworthii* (so named because it resembles that genus of fat little rosettes) and *A. decorum*, which has a decided pink cast.

A. haworthii is a rosette that branches and will grow in sun or shade, rich or poor, better or worse. The edges are finely sawtoothed. As they grow and branch, they put forth straggly ariel roots and reach small shrub size. The stems make it easy to incorporate them for our use; so many of the other rosettes are practically without stems. Among the succulents shown in the photograph of the wreath are:

Echeveria glauca
E. microcalyx
Bryophyllum fedtschenkoi
Aeonium haworthii
A. decorum
Sedum adolphi
S. guatemalense
S. altissimum
S. compressum
Oscularia deltoides
Crassula lycopodioides
C. argentea
C. tetragona
C. species □

TOP: Method used to hand tie the moss to the wreath structure itself.

BOTTOM: Completed wreath constrasting a partially completed wreath structure.

LEFT: Partially completed wreath showing method for arrangement of various succulents.

RIGHT: Another view of the completed wreath.

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The Beauty of Berried Shrubs

by ALICE CLARK

THE FALL SEASON in California is not noticeable because many sub-tropical plants and trees keep our gardens green. But there is a bonus to be found at this time in the colorful beauty of berries, fruits and seed pods that brighten the area and furnish new materials for the indoor decor.

With Thanksgiving impending, it's fun to think of shrubs that bear the fruiting colors of the pumpkin season. Pomegranate, a most graceful tree with handsome and delicious fruits is going deciduous now as colorful leaves begin to fall. It is too large for many gardens and likes the warmest climates but the dwarf *Puniceus granatum* var. 'Fancy' is evergreen, bears decorative orange flowers most of the time and fair-sized reddish brown fruits. The plant makes a fine ornamental, two feet or more high, in a sunny spot.

Another attractive evergreen that gives pleasure all year is the Strawberry Tree, *Arbutus unedo*. It has dark leaves, two to three inches long, with cut edges, shelter flowers that resemble lilies of the valley. They soon develop from pale yellow to deep green and finally to striking orange-red round fruits, the texture and size of strawberries which are edible but tasteless. The rare ability to flower and fruit at the same time makes this plant a must and a charmer in all its phases, even to a rough bark. It takes most any soil or wind and full sun.

Everyone knows the Natal Plum, *Carissa grandiflora*. So often used as a protective hedge because of its sharp thorns, the Natal Plum is also noted for evergreen foliage and its scented white flowers and wine-red fruits. There are now spineless types, some with variegated leaves as well as green, and fruits as large as red plums. Many of these newer varieties are worth looking for.

Masses of red or orange Pyracantha berries call attention to themselves as the most conspicuous plants in the garden just now. These Firethorns are often used to ward off trespassers with their fierce prongs, but they are also handsome shrubs and attractive to birds. If sheered, some of the fruits will be lost as this shrub bears on last year's growth. They are subject to fireblight, a contagion that must be treated vigorously by cutting and burning infected parts. These plants put up with alkaline soils, need full sun and normal moisture, but not from sprinklers.

Equally familiar but not as brilliant as Pyracanthas are the Cotoneasters. Some types are deciduous in colder regions but they are

Arbutus unedo, Strawberry Tree

thornless. The willowy charm of their branches, rough grayish oval leaves and bunches of red berries, are an addition to the landscape when not crowded. They stand adobe soil, seem to sing in the wind and are bothered by few pests. There are many attractive hybrids, large and small to choose from.

Nandina domestica comes to mind just now because of orange and red tints on its leaves but more particularly for its upstanding panicles of small bright-red berries that are common in group plantings. The berries hold their color even in dried bouquets. Leafy stems are much used in flower arrangements both for their lineal effect and long-lasting qualities. There are dwarf forms whose leaves are more colorful but, to my mind, they lack the grace of the taller Heavenly Bamboos.

As the Christmas season nears we think of Holly. *Ilex aquifolium* is mostly associated with the prickly varieties of England and our Northwest. It usually requires cross-pollination for berries but now there are so many good looking self-seeding hybrids that it is difficult to make a selection.

Ilex aquipernyi, Holly 'Brilliant'

Some years ago, in La Jolla, I planted a Chinese Holly, *Ilex cornuta*, because it had only five spines on each dark green leaf, so it was easier to handle. It also makes an imposingly handsome tree. My specimen died after a few years so I cut it to the ground and planted *Ilex aquipernyi* var. 'Billiant' nearby. It is a splendid grower, with smaller, less sharp leaves plus a wealth of medium-size red berries that hold over a long period. It throve nicely, but suddenly the Chinese variety came to life and now the race is on. Both are tall and beautiful, producing a fine combination of wreath-making materials.

Ilex cornuta, var. 'Burfordii'

Those who prefer a spineless holly should try *Ilex cornuta* var. 'Burfordii', whose twigs of oval puckered leaves, without prickles, bear a plentitude of red berries. Another choice type

Ilex altaclarensis, Wilson's holly

with long dark oval foliage, not so sharply toothed, is the variety 'Wilsonii'. In sun or shade, even in poor soil, it makes a handsome bushy shrub with extra fine large berries. Some may enjoy the variegated leaf specimens, especially those with narrow silver margins.

Most hollies need to be watered well. Mulch, rather than cultivate and prune old wood in the spring to encourage berries on new branches.

Toyon, *Heteromeles arbutifolia* is called a California native holly. Soon the canyons will be graced with large clusters of truly red berries amid long slender dark green leaves with fine cut edges. Most gardeners do not realize that the Toyon is also successful in a spacious location where it can bush out or be trained as a small tree. It does well with only average watering. This variety is also useful to prevent soil erosion and, most of all, birds love it!

Those who want a change from holly types should look for this unusual plant—one of my favorites. Many who know the tall stately South African bulbous Blood Lily, *Haemanthus katherinae*, with its wide paddle-like leaves and fabulous fimbriated balls of orange blooms in early summer, do not realize that it has another relative in the Amaryllis class called *Haemanthus puniceus*. After a very short spring rest it comes back fast with low-growing wavy leaves and rather inconspicuous orange blooms. Then the flower calyx starts to fill up with green berries that soon expand to a cup of brilliant red buttons, so very gay at Christmas. It does best in pots in the shade. The bulbs can be divided or the seeds transplanted to grow into healthy beauties, making a real addition to any collection of berried specimens in the winter season. □

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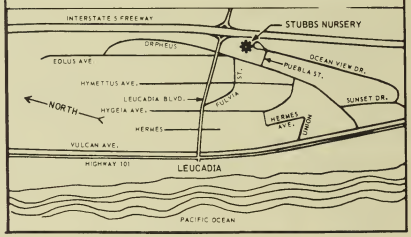

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Blackberries

by GEORGE JAMES

THE MONTHS of December, January, and February are the months in which to plant, prune, and spray plants of blackberries and similar varieties of berries.

Some varieties of blackberries, which will be listed here, do very well in our climate, while other varieties are less satisfactory, and none of the raspberry varieties find neither the soil nor the climate suitable for good growth or production. The most successful blackberry in the San Diego area is the Boysenberry which consistently produces from mid-May through June large crops of berries which are large, slightly reddish in color, sweet-tart in taste, and have seeds which are small. There are vines of Boysenberries which have thorns and those that do not, and those without thorns are much easier to pick fruit from. Thornless vines may revert to being thorny, and the development of new growth which has thorns should be watched for and such growth cut off as soon as it appears.

Other varieties which grow well here are the Loganberry, which has fruit that is red when ripe and is slightly tarter than the Boysenberry, and which may have vines that are thornless as well as those with thorns. The Olallie Blackberry is a very vigorous variety which bears well here and its fruit has a suggestion of the wild blackberry flavor. The Youngberry is an older variety which bears a smaller berry and less of them than the above varieties.

Blackberries are planted from bareroot plants during January and February, when they are available in nurseries, or they may be started from established plants by burying the tips of canes in the ground during the summer. By winter these have developed roots and can be cut from the parent plant and set into a new location during the dormant period. Plants can be set from four to six feet apart, and if planted in rows, the rows should be six feet apart.

Newly planted plants will not bear fruit the first year, instead they will produce canes which will bear the fruit the second year. This sequence continues through the life of the plant, and must be understood if regular fruit production is to be obtained. During the first year the canes can be allowed to lay on the ground, but before the start of the second year a trellis must be provided so the first year canes, which are going to bear, can be tied to the trellis, and the new canes, which will grow during the second summer and which will bear fruit the third year, can be kept separate by laying on the ground. If the past season's canes and the current season's canes are kept separate in this manner, the pruning will be easier, quicker, and more precise. A simple trellis of wires stretched between posts, the top wire not over five feet high and another wire two feet below can be easily constructed. The wire used can be the same as is used to guy TV antennas. Canes can be tied to the wires, or made to encircle the two wires and tied to hold them in place.

The vines are best pruned soon after the crop has been harvested and this is done by cutting off at ground level all the canes that bore fruit, those tied to the trellis. These are removed and the new canes which are laying on the ground are placed on the trellis. Vines which have many canes should have their canes reduced to from twelve to fifteen by cutting out the extra ones; those canes which are to be tied on the trellis can be cut back to a length of six to eight feet. Cutting back the canes in this manner, at this time of year, causes side shoots to grow on the cut back canes. Before growth starts in the spring, these side shoots can be cut back again to about one foot in length, which will cause small branches to grow, and these will bear the fruit.

Blackberry vines should be planted where they will be in the sun the greater part of the day, and they prefer a deep soil, so roots may grow five or six feet deep. They are often grown on soils where the roots cannot grow this deep because of impervious layers of soil, and if care is taken not to saturate the soil so excess water accumulates on the impervious layer which would damage the roots, satisfactory growth will result. Irrigation can start as soon as growth starts in the spring and continue until leaves are starting to shed in the late fall. Water may be applied by either sprinkling or flooding, and an area several feet wide on each side of the plants should be wet, as the roots will spread out if soil conditions are suitable. Water to wet the soil five to six feet deep, if the soil permits, otherwise water to wet the soil above the impervious layer. Water frequently enough to prevent the soil in the root zone from becoming dry. These plants do not grow well in soil that is saline.

Newly set plants will not need fertilizing the first year, and care should be taken in the application of fertilizer to any blackberry plants, as their roots are very easily damaged. Starting the second year and continuing for the life of the planting, the plants can be fertilized two or three times a year. The first application is made as growth starts in the spring, which will increase fruiting; the second application in early summer, to promote side shoots on the new canes; and if a third application is needed, it can be applied just after pruning. Experience has shown that nitrogen is the plant food element usually needed by berry vines and this can be quickly and cheaply supplied by the use of ammonium sulphate which is applied at the rate of one-quarter pound to one pound per plant, depending upon need. Ammonium sulphate should be spread thinly over the root area and watered in at once.

The most serious insect pest of these vines is the Red Berry Mite, a relative of the Red Spider, which feeds on the berries, stunting the area where the feeding has occurred, and as a result of this, the stunted areas do not ripen, but remain red after the rest of the fruit has turned black. This pest is best controlled during the December through February period by the use of a dormant spray which contains sulpher. The first application should be made about the first of the New Year and a second just before the buds swell, late January or February. If rain occurs within several days following either application, the application should be repeated, and it is recommended that this program be followed, as a preventative measure, in cases where the Red Berry Mite has not been too troublesome.

Berries are enjoyed by all, whether used as fresh fruit, frozen for future use, or made into jelly or jam. A row of four to six plants will provide enough fruit for a family of four or five to have a surplus at the peak of the crop which may be frozen or made into jam or jelly. The fruit should be picked every two to three days, to prevent spoiling from over-ripening. The depradations of birds on the ripe fruit can be stopped by use of a net which will cover the vines. This net can be made of cheese cloth, net, or plastic netting which is available at many nursery and garden supply stores. □

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Photos by Betty Mackintosh

The Neglected Quince

by MAXINE JOHNSON

WHEN I THINK how easy it is to grow a quince tree, how fragrant and distinctive the aroma and flavor of the cooked fruit are, I wonder why this very old fruit is so unappreciated. My tree, now eleven years old, comes from a tree here in Chula Vista that was over fifty years old when I brought home a stick from the tree. It was January and the stick was placed in the ground near the back of my garden where it had its first fruit in three years. This year I harvested over 100 pounds from its branches. I canned some, preserved some and made some into a sauce. Some of the fruit I gave to friends and relatives as there was plenty remaining for this purpose.

My tree is about fifteen feet tall and is mature judging from others I have seen in the area. It receives no special care, but I do grow many plants and bulbs which require extensive water and fertilizer, so the tree does benefit from that care. I have noted, however, that some trees grown in neglected gardens and ranches tend to develop into hedges much smaller than the size of a normal tree, but full of fruit nonetheless.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the quince was first noted in Iran and Turkey, in climates not unlike our own. The Greeks seem to be the first to graft and improve the tree and to classify and also give it a name. Speculation has made the fruit of the quince the "fatal apple" that Eve gave Adam. My observation is that the fruit is unedible in an uncooked condition because of the tough and astrigent flesh. If children won't bother stealing them, why should Adam have been tempted?

The quince will grow in any temperate zone anywhere in the world. In New England, the quince was at one time cultivated in commercial orchards and sold in the markets. In recent times, the improvement in apples and their superiority for eating raw has pushed the quince out of popularity.

The quince, apple and pear are all of the rose family but of different genera. The fruiting quince is *Cydonia oblonga* and judging from the fruit my tree bears, the name is quite appropriate. Mine are all over a pound in weight, round to oblong in shape with a suede-like fuzz over a yellow-green skin, with a pale yellow flesh which turns pink when cooked.

Sunset's Western Gardening Book suggests four varieties of quince that do well here in the West—the Apple or Orange, the Champion, the Pineapple and the Smyrna. Judging from the descriptions Sunset gives, mine is either Champion or Smyrna—it has characteristics of both. Since I know nothing of the parent tree, there is no way of knowing the variety.

The fruit of the quince ripens from September to November and will keep all winter if put in a cool , dark place. A few of them in a fruit bowl will perfume the whole house for weeks. Peeled sliced and cooked with some sugar and water they make a fine sauce for eating like apple sauce or in pies and cakes. In preparing them for cooking, be certain to gouge out the entire seed cavity to prevent the final texture of the sauce from taking on a grittiness. Even though the slices of fruit are tough, they cook quickly.

Quince trees do not tend to be very shapely. I prune my tree in January, but by blossom time a number of limbs have shot out to give a gangly appearance to the tree's shape. The prunings are great for "give aways" for new starts. The pink and white blossoms and the tender ovate light green leaves are so pretty, that I let them stay or give them to flower arrangers for the spring shows. Even in winter this deciduous tree at the back of my garden is a study in lines and a great backdrop for my camellias and bulbs that flower in winter and early spring. □

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Plants As Christmas Gifts

by ANNE SHORE

THE NURSERIES and florist shops are filled with an array of plants with which one can decorate a home or give as a gift. If you are on the receiving end, the first question that comes to mind is "How do I care for my gift?"

No doubt, your plant has recently emerged from a humid greenhouse. One day soon after you receive it, you may notice with alarm that some of the leaves are turning yellow and dropping off regardless of how graciously you have treated the "new arrival". So, you suddenly begin pouring water in the soil thinking it is dry. Don't panic! The plant must become adjusted to its new surroundings. Reduce the water and in two or three weeks it will be reconciled to your home. Give it filtered light, plenty of humidity by misting or syringing, and wipe its leaves clean with a damp cloth about once a week. Plants like to breath through the pores in their leaves. If your plant still is not happy in its present location, move it around the house until it shows signs of rejuvenation.

Don't be scared if you should receive a succulent as a gift. They are very satisfactory for indoor growing. They can be used attractively in dish gardens, in driftwood, and tucked in colorful baskets. These make lovely low-maintenance gifts. Several small stems of *Aeonium*, or even *Echeveria* inserted in various sized openings of a graceful piece of driftwood will eventually root without benefit of water.

Miniature gardens in a bowl are another delight for gift giving or receiving. They may include small ferns, miniature begonias or miniature African violets. A good house plant mix with an addition of perlite and charcoal is adequate to sustain them. Be careful not to place them in direct sun. The combination of sun, window and glass or plastic container can spell certain disaster. Remember that your soil mix is very water retentive so use caution when watering—only about one or two teaspoons of distilled or rain water. You certainly do not want to invite an accumulation of salts. Yes, a little food too. Use a few drops of diluted liquid fish fertilizer.

Plants in dish gardens will live in serene comfort for about a year or more. Eventually they will need judicious pruning or alternately can be graduated to a larger container.

Why not take a run to Balboa Park and enjoy the Gesneriad display in the Botanical Gardens. The *Episcias*, *Columneas* and *Aeschynanthus* are breathtaking in their tropical elegance. There are four tall decorative standards from which are suspended these exotic beauties. Any one of this family would make a most appreciated gift.

A bubble filled with such exquisite treasures as *Begonia versicolor griffithii* or *bognerii* would indeed fill me with happiness if I were on the receiving end.

Do you have a friend with a dark corner? Why not give a member of the Lily family—*Sansevieria trifasciata*. To compensate for the names hurled at it, this plant will prove itself in that "hard to please" dark corner. The dwarfs Golden Hahnii and Silver Hahnii are lovely and will grace your coffee table or that dim shelf in the hall. Acquaint yourself with other varieties and you will soon cultivate a lasting friendship.

In your own home, "gift" yourself. Try a dramatic grouping of plants on the floor, either flowering or foliage. Use a large metal tray, preferably on a piece of plastic (cut to size) for insurance against water leaks. Fill the tray with pebbles or large sponge rock adding a small amount of water to moisten the entire surface. Now CREATE! Try a tall philodendron, a yellow or white chrysanthemum and possibly a low fern. Viewing the beauty of a Spider or Spoon Chrysanthemum from above can be a completely new experience. Each petal becomes individual; you can look down into the furled recesses of a *Dieffenbachia* leaf or into the throat of a thrusting bromeliad blossom. You may even find a little tree frog in his "bedroom" as I did! This new view is sheer excitement when compared to the usual eye-level angle.

You may prefer an arrangement of all bromeliads, varying the foliage and size of the plant. Or, you may prefer the calming softness of a fern collection. The possibilities are limitless and can create a panorama of bright color and cool greenness in your home. □

Many new roses are entered for judging in competition just as are the better quality products in other lines.

The highest award in judging new roses of the year is known as the AARS, which means "All-America Rose Selections". Selections are made only after scientific tests have been carried out and are not merely the opinion of so-called experts who might have been obliged to make hurried decisions under adverse circumstances, as is sometimes the case in awarding prizes.

The All-America Rose Selections organization functions as the official tester of new roses produced in the United States and other great rose producing countries of the world. The purpose of checking or testing new introductions is to determine whether or not they have all the qualities necessary to make them adaptable to the great variety of climates and conditions found in the United States. Rose production has become a big industry, and the AARS has contributed in no small way in helping growers maintain the high standards worthy of a sound industry. The benefits of all this research naturally accrue to you, the home gardener, as you are the one who will possess and cultivate the new varieties from the day they are first sold as two-year-old, field-grown plants, until they are worn out and need to be replaced, perhaps by a new variety that measures up to the highest AARS standards.

AARS tests for determining the better qualities of new roses are made by planting new varieties in widely separated test gardens in the United States. All tests are under the supervision of some of America's foremost authorities on rose propagation, hybridization and culture. Point scoring is done throughout a two year test period, and any new variety measuring up to the high requirements of an AARS award has the distinction of becoming one of the roses of the year. More than one rose, but no more than five, may qualify in a given year.

. . . . "Growing Roses" by Frank R. Norris

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Christmas Far Away and Long Ago

by JOSEPHINE GRAY

AT CHRISTMAS TIME when I go about the garden cutting branches of Rosemary and handsfull of little winter Iris and Narcissi, I think of the Christmas customs of other people from other climates, from other times—times that began our custom of the Christmas tree or the cold austerity in Puritan homes, the merriment and sadness of Dickens' London, the wild waste and frivolity of Kings' courts. At the time of good Queen Bess, England was split religiously so that the gorgeous pageantry which had prevailed in churches during the Catholic era was considerably pared down.

However, the lord of a large manor house or castle whose household and servants created a small village around him, managed to meld Protestant austerity and Catholic magnificence into gaiety and happiness for the Twelve Days of Christmas. This was a holiday long anticipated for in these days when few letters were written, it meant the reunion of families. A few days before Christmas fresh straw and blankets were spread in small sleeping rooms for the children and servants of the joyously expected sons and daughters. No man of any worth arrived with less than two servants, and an important visitor might bring a small retinue to feed, house and entertain.

Imagine then the preparation that went on for weeks beforehand; deer to be hunted, game birds and rabbits trapped, hawking parties faring forth to gather in scores of little byrdys (birds) to be baked in pasties and pyes. The hunters dealt with the venison, kitchen churls with the fowl and rabbits, cleaning and hanging them high away from the dogs. The hunting and hawking parties were entertainment as well as a necessity, and the courtyard of a cold winter morning was alive with noise—jinking and jingling of harness, the loud raillery of the men over the last hot posset before riding into the woods.

Along a snowy path might come the Lady of the manor, cloak clutched tightly in one hand, a rush basket in the other, wind catching the tail of her coif like a sail to set her on even keel to the door of her herb garden. Inside it was warmer and there were patches of green against the lichened stones of the old wall. She would find Marjoram for the mutton pies and Savory for the stews, and maybe a dried stalk of Fennel whcih the birds missed would yield a handful of seeds to take to the children. On top of the basket she would tenderly lay one or two Christmas roses found in a sheltered spot, to cheer her own small bower.

Children and servants had been decorating the great hall for days with holly and ivy and mistletoe brought in from the woods; since the herb garden would not yield enough strewing herbs at this time of year, clean rushes were strewn on the floor, and little clutches of lemons and oranges tied together made baubles to set among the branches of bay that lined the window ledges. On Christmas Eve, the Yule log was dragged in to the hearth place to cheer the hall for supper and for many days afterward. And what a supper! Family and guests, children and servants all roaring and laughing and talking as they ate their way through an unbelievable amount of food which they washed down with ale. Blancmanger of Fyshe, in which cold boiled rice was mixed with milk of almonds and added either to perch or lobster and as it seethed gently, sugar and ginger were stirred in until it thickened, and then, as the ancient manuscript says, it is served forth. This is not the only fish dish, there might be jellied pike and oysters in gravy or mussels in broth and these would be followed by numerous dishes of fowl; roasted peacock, cleverly taken apart and put together again in skin and feathers "as he was wonte to sitte a-lyve"; goose, pheasant all cooked

with a great deal of spice, saffron, ginger, pepper, and cinnamon.

The piece de resistance of this feast was a great meat pie. Pastry was spread into a mold called a coffyn, and into it small pieces of beef were strewn on the bottom, and after a number of serious services had been rendered them, capons, hens, ducks, rabbits and woodcocks were couched in the coffyn with more bits of beef and suet, and the whole then blanketed with marrow, hard yolks of eggs, cut up dates, prunes and raisins. Whole cloves and mace, cinnamon and saffron were then sprinkled over this magnificent melange. The coffyn was closed with a pastry lid and put in the oven to "bake enough", but, the ancient recipe instructs, be sure that no saffron comes nigh the brinkes (edges) thereof, for then it will never close.

After all were gonged and replete, nurses dragged small children off to bed wailing and unwilling and the dogs were allowed to snuffle through the rushes for bones. Then they sang madrigals and carols, and if they were lucky enough to have had a minstrel ask for hospitality till Twelfth Night, they would learn new songs and have harp accompaniment for all the old ones. At midnight with much cheering and laughter, the Lord of Misrule was crowned. He determined the entertainment and merry-making and kept his throne for the Twelve Days of Christmas; chosen from the "lower orders" and costumed now in light green or yellow, scarves and ribbons flying, he was a lively and comic lad with sense enough to know how far he could go with practical jokes and pranks without angering his betters.

On Christmas Day the household went across the snowy fields to church, the children tumbling and scuffling in the snow like a diversion of bright birds, sobered only by their arrival at the dark and icy church, where after what seemed an interminable time they were set free again to riot their way home to the great Christmas dinner, Once more everyone would gorge himself into a torpor on boar's head, shoulder of mutton, various kinds of tarts and pastys of pigeon or partridge, sweet tarts called daryoles which, in season would have strawberries or cherries, but at Christmas time would likely be custard with raisins and a great deal of ginger and cinnamon in them.

After such a meal quiet descends; old men seek the hearthside to nod and snooze, plump matrons slip away to their chambers to unlace tight bodices and rest until the evening's entertainment. They sang, danced, drank until exhaustion either dropped them in their tracks or sent them stumbling to bed. The next day, St. Stephen's Day, most of the men went hawking and left the young people to prepare the hall for the mummer's play in the evening. An old morality play might be the theme, and for weeks they had been furbishing up their old masks and disguises—foxes, bears, unicorns, some in deer hides and antlers, and those with no costumes must black their faces. Sometimes they had a hard time of it to finish the play for the arguing and fighting that the constant ale drinking promoted.

Every night of the twelve had its entertainment. The Lord of Misrule, like the court jester, wove his colored thread of mirth through all the festivity. Some evenings they danced the kissing dances, "Kiss in the Ring", "Lumps of Pudding" and "Up Tails All". Older people, bored with all this, sat up until dawn dicing. And so the twelve days passed, and the last morning came when a beloved daughter hugged her father around his thick waist and an adored son kissed his mother's hand and all gathered their broods together and rode off down the cold snowy road, the mingled breath of men and horses smoking the bright air.

Far away and long ago, but love and laughter never change. God rest ye merry! □

leafin' thru

by BARBARA JONES

ROSE RECIPES FROM OLDEN TIMES, Eleanor Sinclair Rohde, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1973, 94 pages; $1.25.

This delightful book is a republication of the work published in 1939 titled "Rose Recipes". Sixteenth and seventeenth century receipts to modern recipes are included as well as a history of rose usage.

Sixteenth century sweet bags which were taken to bed to induce sleep and Elizabethian era methods of drying petals in sand are explained. Receipts for Victorian sweet water and rose vinegars (used to relieve headaches) are included. In reading the book, I found that what I thought was a "pot-pourri" was really a "scent jar".

This four century herbal with every page beautifully decorated, should be a part of every rose enthusiasts or herbal collectors' library. It would make a marvelous gift.

HOW INDIANS USE WILD PLANTS FOR FOOD MEDICINE AND CRAFTS, Frances Densmore, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1974, 397 pp.; $2.50.

This book is a reporduction of the 1927 paper "Uses of Plants by the Chippewa Indians". The original educational study was done by observing the Chippewa Indians of the Great Lakes region before their habitats and crafts were disrupted by encroaching civilization.

Food plants and the methods of gathering and uses are explained as well as the plants used as medicines. Plant charms and plants used for dying and decorative art are described. The book has many good photographs.

The Midewiwin believed that every tree, bush and plant had a use. Indian "doctors" were usually members of this organization. They kept their remedies secret, and to insure that the secrets would not be discovered, aromatic herbs were combined with the plant material actually used for the treatment. Vegetable remedies were usually gathered in late summer or early fall, and the part most commonly used was the root.

This book is factual and well written. Many of the plants are found in California. Anyone interested in plant dyes or in food harvest methods of the Indians, should find this book very useful. Historians will find the description of the activities and training of the "medicine men" very complete.

□ □

by HELEN WITHAM

SIERRA WILDFLOWERS, Theodore F. Niehaus, University of California Press, 223 pages with color plates and drawings; 1974.

The Sierra Nevada, as covered in this guide, extends from the vicinity of Mt. Lassen in the north to Kern Canyon in the south. Ted Niehaus writes of a part of California he has known and loved, tramped, traveled and photographed since childhood. Nearly 550 wildflowers (those annual and perennial plants that grow up, flower and then die back in one season) are arranged by families, with simple keys to the genera and in some cases to the species. About half of them are illustrated by large clear line drawings or by color photographs. Drawings of leaf and flower shapes, arrangements of leaves and of flowers, and of flower parts are particularly helpful in connecting the written description and drawing in the book with the flower in front of you in some mountain meadow.

INTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA PLANT LIFE, Robert Ornduff, University of California

(continued)

Press, 151 pages with drawings and color plates, 1974.

Complete coverage of California's diverse plant life—what plants grow here and why they do—would result in a mountain of material. Robert Ornduff's book is entitled "Introduction" and it is just that. But, it does cover a great deal of ground in a clear understandable way. I quote from the author: "This small book introduces you to the plant life of California and tells you something of how plants are grouped into communities and what environmental influences determine the pattern of distribution of these communities in the state. It also discusses the origin of our flora, how plants are adapted to the diverse climates of the state, and how they respond to forest and chaparral fires, to unusual soils, to man, and to each other."

I especially recommend Chapter I on plant names, for its clear and simple explanation of the "whys" and "wherefores" of naming plants, and reason why common names don't always aid communication. Ornduff cites as the ultimate example of impossible usage, the common timber tree Douglas Fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, which has at least 26 common names!

□ □

by THERESA YIANILOS

THE BOLETI OF NORTH CAROLINA, William Chambers Coker and Alma Holland, Dover Publications, New York.

A detailed regional book covering that group of the cup fungi which is safest to eat. This is a paperback book with well-illustrated pages of sketches and photographs.

INTRODUCTION TO MUSHROOM HUNTING, Vera K. Charles, Dover Publications, New York.

This small book was first written for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It provides the beginner with a convenient, safe and practical guide to the common mushrooms of the U.S. An excellent book to begin the study of the mushroom.

DOWN TO EARTH—A GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL INDOOR GARDENING, Wes Gorham, Penguin Books, Maryland.

The title is explicit. Here is one of those delightfully illustrated books that will help gardeners deal in the house with each specific plant they can grow on a one to one basis. A special section in the back includes a list of books recommended for the indoor gardener, periodicals to buy and societies to join and places where you may order plants, bulbs and supplies.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF THE UNITED STATES, Percy A. Morris, Dover Publications, New York.

Californians are a special group of people who seem to have more interest in reptiles and amphibians than other gardeners in other states. Is there a gardener in Southern California who hasn't wondered if one day he will come face to face with a rattler in his garden? An informal and thorough description of the habits and customs of the reptiles and amphibians is provided in this book with solid information for identification, observations and study of these creatures.

INDIAN SCOUT CRAFT AND LORE, Charles A. Eastman, Dover Publications, New York.

Scouts and others who enjoy camping and learning the lessons of outdoor life will find in this book not only new ideas but a feeling of life as it was lived by young Indian boys and girls nearly a century ago. Dr. Eastman is a full-blooded Sioux Indian, who was raised as a young warrior in the 1870's and 80's. In this book he describes his life and the games he played and the feelings about life that he developed as he worked to become a young Indian Scout.

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BEGONIAS

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- ✓ to clean up all debris—keep dead leaves and spent blooms removed.
- ✓ to water only as needed.
- ✓ to protect from beating rain, down-drips, and cold winds.
- ✓ to keep feeding lightly.
- ✓ to spray for mildew and other pests.
- ✓ to let tubers die back on their own; put aside and let rest, sprinkling occasionally.
- ✓ to plant seed for new varieties.

BONSAI

HERB MARKOWITZ

- ✓ to protect deciduous trees that are in a dormant phase; locate them where there are no sudden temperature changes, excessive sun and wind. Sudden heat spells may cause out of season leaf sprouting—avioid this by keeping the trees in cool shade areas.
- ✓ to remove any remaining leaves or fruits from deciduous trees.
- ✓ to prune black pines by cutting the candles to about half their length.
- ✓ to not transplant bonsai trees and do not fertilize this month.
- ✓ to be extremely careful not to water trees excessively. The cooler weather decreases the need for as much water; but the deciduous trees require just enough water to keep them from drying out.
- ✓ to protect trees from freezing weather.

CACTUS & SUCCULENTS

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- ✓ to add another dimension to your sturdy succulent garden. Scatter mixed wildflower seeds throughout for a truer touch of the desert scene in spring.
- ✓ to first cultivate soil, scatter seeds and cover very lightly with a layer of well mixed sharp sand, compost, and/or some redwood mulch.
- ✓ to cut down on watering—the cooler the weather, the less water; check for pests and scale.

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CAMELLIAS

SOCIETY

- ✓ to feed your plants with low nitrogen food every two weeks to help fatten buds to bloom in February and March.
- ✓ to apply "gibberellic" acid to a few buds once a week if you plan to enter the "gib" section in spring shows.
- ✓ to groom and disbud for larger blooms.
- ✓ to maintain high humidity.
- ✓ to start early grafts in December.
- ✓ to turn plants for even growth on all sides.

DAHLIAS

SOCIETY

- ✓ to let the plants go dormant by withholding water and food.
- ✓ to allow plants to dry brown; when brown about twelve inches from the ground, cut off the stalks.
- ✓ to leave tubers in ground to harden off; lift roots before the rains start.
- ✓ to wash clumps and dry for a few hours before dividing; leave at least one eye in each division. Apply soil sulphur to any cuts and store in vermiculite or other medium out of weather.

EPIPHYLLUMS

GEORGE FRENCH

- ✓ to give a feeding before the first of December.
- ✓ to check for snails and slugs.
- ✓ to check and tie any long branches to prevent damage.
- ✓ to clean up any "ugly" looking plants; repot if necessary.
- ✓ to watch watering especially if there are heavy rains; do not over water.

FUCHSIAS

WILLIAM SELBY

- ✓ to let your fuchsias rest—use no fertilizer and only enough water to keep from drying out.
- ✓ to clean up; remove all dead leaves and blossoms from the ground, and in and around the plant containers and baskets.
- ✓ to do some heavy pruning where the weather is mild or if plants are kept in a greenhouse. Cuttings may be taken if good tip growth is available.
- ✓ to transplant garden plants while they are quite dormant.
- ✓ to mulch plants outside particularly if in areas that might be subject to frost.

IRIS

LERTON HOOKER

- ✓ to make final plantings of Bearded, Spurias, Louisianas.

(continued)

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IRIS *(continuation)*

- ✓ to move and replant Pacific Coast Natives—be sure new white roots are showing. This probably will be late December. Water well until they are established.
- ✓ to feed with a higher nitrogen fertilizer if vegetative growth is needed. A liquid type is instantly available and avoids possible damage to the plants.
- ✓ to set up a watering program. Louisianas and Japanese like a wet swamp-like condition. Spurias and other beardless iris like it damp but not swampy. Bearded iris need alternate soaking and drying to force root growth. Soak the soil, then let dry for two to four weeks depending on the type of soil and drainage. When soil down to six to eight inches gets on the dry side, repeat soaking or arrange for a good rain.

ORCHIDS

LOIS DONAHUE

- ✓ to watch for new spikes and keep snail bait out.
- ✓ to stake the spikes carefully, as they develop, so they will grow straight up.
- ✓ to continue feeding with high phosphorus fertilizer.
- ✓ to hose off overhead glass on greenhouses. Shorter days and dirty or painted glass cuts down on much needed light.
- ✓ to get some epidendrums if you don't have some of these hardy ever-blooming little jewels.

ORGANIC GARDENING

JOHN MILLER

- ✓ to go to the beaches and gather seaweed for gardens; bury one foot deep—plant all cold weather crops such as lettuce, cabbage, chard, kale.
- ✓ to start a herb garden—try comfrey, sweet basil, tansy, mint, and penny royal (last three for ant and flea control).
- ✓ to put aloe under shelter—lath house or smaller ones brought into the house. They like warmth and a frost could kill them off.
- ✓ to grow comfrey in the house in winter.

ROSES

DEE THORSON

- ✓ to apply steer manure to rose beds, to be incorporated into the soil during dormant season.
- ✓ to remove petals but allow hips to remain on plants, during the latter part of November until pruning time.
- ✓ to discontinue applications of high nitrogen fertilizers in an attempt to prevent bushes from putting out a lot of new growth.

Useful Terms

Are you unclear what the label means when purchasing lawnseed, or what certain terms signify when following lawn care advisories?

These definitions may help.

Biodegradable: decomposing readily after use, as with certain pesticides.

Coarse Kind: less attractive grasses grouped secondarily on the lawnseed label.

Cool-season grass: lawngrass adapted to more northerly climates, most used from the border states northward (especially bentgrass, bluegrass, fescue and perennial ryegrass).

Crop (in seed): extraneous seeds other than weeds carried in purchased seed.

Fine-textured: attractive lawngrasses given primary listing on seed labels.

Germination: ability of seed to sprout.

Hybrid: progeny from the crossing of two distinct genetic types.

Major nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, the primary components of a lawn fertilizer.

Overseeding: spreading of seed on an established lawn, usually at light rate.

pH; a numerical indication of soil acidity-alkalinity, in which 7 is neutral; less than 7, acid (often needing lime; more than 7, alkaline.

Rhizome: an underground stem in species such as Kentucky bluegrass and fine fescue which enable the plant to spread and form sod well.

Slow-release: term applied to lawn fertilizers that liberate nitrogen slowly over a span of time; typically contain ureaform.

Thatch: resideues at the base of sod, mostly ligneous sheaths, stems and roots.

Ureaform: a special polymer of urea and formaldehyde that decomposes slowly releasing nitrogen at a steady pace.

Weed: any plant growing where unwanted, but by law certain agricultural pests (seeds of which are sometimes carried in seed for lawns and other purposes).

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florascope

• • Dip small evergreen branches or twigs in a paste made of flour and water then into artificial snow for a sparkling addition to a "White Christmas" theme.

MAY FLAGG

• • Here's an idea for a Christmas gift to a gardener! Fill a cutting basket with a kneeling pad, a trowel, a pair of garden shears and some garden gloves. Tie a sprig of holly to the handle with a big red bow and wait for the smiles on Christmas Day. Bulbs, seeds, a short handled hoe or a small package of fertilizer are other suggestions.

JANE McGLASSON

• • Everyone should plant berry-bearing trees and shrubs to attract the birds. They will repay you not only with song but they will eat many of the grubs and pests in your garden.

D. J. WALDREP

• • When cutting poinsettias for Christmas arrangements, place immediately in boiling water after cutting (making sure to protect the flower heads); allow to cool, then put in ice water.

SKIPPER COPE

• • Rose and lemon geraniums make lovely fragrant house plants. Give them a very sunny window and very little water in a sandy loam and then enjoy the perfume and beauty on your window sill.

MAY FLAGG

• • Plant trees that are indigenous to your area so that you will get the fastest and best growth possible from each variety with the least worry and trouble.

KEVIN ADAMS

• • Kumquats add a bright touch to your Christmas arrangements. Try them with nuts, berries and evergreens.

MARY BROWN

454-0404

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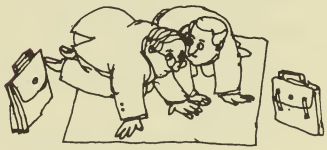

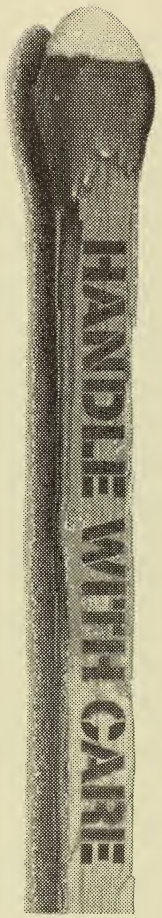

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Second Sun., Casa del Prado, 1-5:00 p.m.
Pres: Dr. Herbert Markowitz—224-8552
876 Armada Terrace, S.D. 92106

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION, INC.
Second Thurs., Casa del Prado
Pres: Mrs. Joseph Kennealy—223-6183
2260 Catalina Blvd., S.D. 92107

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY, 2nd Sat., Casa del Prado, 1:30 p.m.
Pres: Joseph Bibbey—423-5133
490 Citrus Ave., Imperial Beach 92032

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Third Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Capt. Ben H. Berry—435-2562
471 Country Club Lane, Coronado 92118

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, Fourth Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Earl Galloway—282-0388
4365 Alder Dr., S.D. 92116

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Fourth Tues., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Abe Janzen—277-4473
3521 Belford Street, S.D. 92111

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
First Tues., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Mr. Rex Foster—466-0605
2645 Massachusetts Ave., Lemon Grove 92045

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Second Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Mr. Donald Irwin—469-2469
4124 N. Rogers Road, Spring Valley 92077

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA SOCIETY
Sec. Mon., Casa del Prado, 8:00 p.m.
Pres: Mrs. Frank Calamari—232-8232
2867 "G" Street, S.D. 92102

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
Sec. Tues., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Mrs. Wm. Cavanaugh—224-9208
4377 Loma Riviera Ct., S.D. 92110

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY, Third Sun., Casa del Prado, I:30 p.m.
Pres: Mrs. Eugene Cooper—295-7938
4444 Arista Drive, S.D. 92103

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Third Mon., Casa del Prado, 8:00 p.m.
Pres: Mrs. Allen P. Sears—461-6408
1510 La Corta, Lemon Grove 92045

SAN DIEGO TROPICAL FISH SOCIETY
Sec. Sun., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: William McColl—271-0731
8613 Bennington St., S.D. 92117

SOUTHWESTERN GROUP, JUDGES' COUNCIL CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
First Wed., Casa del Prado, 10:30 a.m.
Pres: Mrs. Jose Garcia—264-4167
319 South 39th Street., S.D. 92113

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